

# THE Pacific Commercial Advertiser

A MORNING PAPER.

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## PROMOTION PRAISE AND CRITICISM.

Managers of great railroad systems on the mainland can afford to give their opinions of things Hawaiian without being suspected of ulterior motives or designs, and can point out things wherein Hawaii surpasses expectations, comes up to the advertisements of her Promotion Committee, or falls short of them, without being knockers. Mr. Calvin, of San Francisco, and Mr. Bancroft, of Salt Lake City, can not be suspected of harboring any deep-down, despicable designs of knocking any particular place in Hawaii when they express their views on request concerning the tourist prospects of Hawaii and the best methods of improving them, even when their opinion is that Hilo has not hotel accommodation of a nature to satisfy the tourists who naturally wish to visit Hawaii's greatest attraction, the Volcano of Kilauea. Instead of abusing Messrs. Calvin and Bancroft, the people of Hilo ought to sit down and consider what they have had to say. Intelligent criticism is worth much more than unmeaning gush and unlimited taffy. The gentlemen who took some weeks of their valuable time to visit these islands are big men in transportation circles, their lines handling more tourists every week than all Hawaii sees in a year, and their opinions are of those who know what they are talking about. They found much to praise on the Big Island, the excellent railroad, the hospitality of the people, the grandeur of the volcanic sights, and the beauty of the scenery. They found a few things to criticize. Even the Hilo people criticize things at times; why can not others?

## AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT.

In contrast with all the hullabaloo about hostilities has been the President's recent act in making public the report of his Conservation Commission. It is the result of months of energetic work by many bureaus of the government in gathering and compiling information about the natural resources of this country. Nothing like it was ever undertaken before and, while the information imparted was not so prominently displayed in the newspapers as some other current events, time probably will demonstrate that it is one of the most important documents the President has sent to Congress.

The report itself, very voluminous, has been given little publicity, but when it is printed as a public document and becomes accessible, it will be found a mine of information about our rivers and forests and coal mines. As an example of what the President has had done toward a census of natural resources, the waterpowers of the land might be mentioned. Some months ago he directed the Geological Survey to cooperate with the Census Bureau for that work. Tens of thousands of names of owners of water power, gathered by the enumerators of the last census, were dug out of the musty files and requests sent to them for statements about the ownership of water power at the present time. This was supplemented by a series of questions addressed to postmasters throughout the country, this feature of the inquiry having been in charge of the Postmaster-General. Not only were the developed water powers thus enumerated, but statements were gathered about the undeveloped water powers.

The Conservation Commission went even further. The Hydrographic Bureau of the Geological Survey has had men out in the field for a number of years measuring the flow and volume of streams and rivers, studying sites for reservoirs in which flood waters could be impounded, and estimating how much the water power of a given river could be increased were the floods restrained and the water used to turn wheels. And now the Geological Survey has furnished to the report, turned over to the President, some very remarkable figures by States of the tremendous amount of undeveloped water power. The value of this water resource is all the greater because of the feasibility now of converting water into electricity and then transmitting it great distances to run factories, move street cars, light towns and cities and perform a score of different kinds of work, even to heating houses and cooking food. San Francisco brings electricity 220 miles, from the Yuba river, although with the electrical inventions to date it is not economical to transmit electric energy much more than 150 miles. But it is said to be certain that within a few years there are strong expectations of ability to transmit electricity economically several hundreds of miles. Improvements in conductors and insulators will help to that end.

And this feature of President Roosevelt's message to Congress and of the report of the Conservation Commission looks forward to this day when every river and stream in the country will be harnessed and the millions of undeveloped horsepower will be turned to public use. The possibilities are already emphasized in the awakening among the farmers, some of whom are already installing small water-wheels of a few horsepower with dynamos which light their homes with electricity, pump water, cut fodder for the livestock, turn the grindstones, and churn the cream into butter. The cost of equipment has been reduced to figures that bring the electrical apparatus within reach of farmers and make it even cheaper than gasoline engines that have been generally introduced in recent years. In the prairie States, where there is little water power, the prospects of hitching the winds to dynamos to the same purpose are very bright. It all makes more conspicuous the approach of a great electrical age.

One thing the President dwells upon at considerable length is the improvement of the waterways to make them navigable. Congress is expected to cooperate in bringing that about, which means that the River and Harbor Appropriation Bill will soon become the most important and, from the public standpoint, one of the most beneficial of all the appropriation bills enacted by Congress.

This improvement of inland waterways, as a whole, is a far more expensive and, possibly, a far more beneficial undertaking than even the building of the Panama canal. In recent years the appropriations for the improvement of navigable rivers have been put on a better business basis, but there has been a tremendous waste of money on such projects and there is now room for a much wiser and less wasteful use of public moneys for those purposes. The Forest Service has been greatly developed during President Roosevelt's administration, till it has become a great and permanent institution in the national government. It is correlated with the improvement of rivers and is now yielding a net revenue of about \$2,000,000 annually. In ten years probably that net revenue will be ten times as much annually. It has now become sufficient so that Congress is about to authorize the use of a portion of those revenues for reforestation and of protecting the watersheds of navigable rivers.

The House Agricultural Committee is about to report favorably a bill to purchase forest lands in the White Mountains and in the Appalachians of North and South Carolina and Georgia from the proceeds of the national forests in the West. This means the building up of great national forests in the East as well as in the West. There are no public lands owned by the government in the East, but in the course of a few years the Federal government promises to have large tracts of forest in the East from which it will be selling marketable timber. In other words, the government will soon become the largest dealer in lumber in the United States, and the day may not be far away when it will have as much timber to sell in some States as private owners have.

The national forests in the West now comprise many millions of acres in widely different localities. In the East, however, these holdings by the government must apparently be confined to the mountains, where navigable rivers leave their rise, for it has been held by the House Judiciary Committee that the only constitutional justification for such purchases must be for the protection and improvement of navigable rivers. But Congress believes that that justification will be ample, and on the whole will probably be a wholesome restriction upon the government's timber land operations.

As the Eastern forest lands, acquired by the Federal government, will be administered on strictly scientific lines and timber cut only as fast as it matures, the owners of private lands will have an influential example, and in that particular the government's forest operations in the East are likely to have a most wholesome influence toward the preservation of privately-owned forests.

President Roosevelt thinks that his activities in promoting these conservation changes will stand forth, as time goes by, the most conspicuous monuments to his administration. Others are inclined to agree with him about that. When he entered the White House, the Appalachian forest project was just being bronched before the Senate. At first it was received with derision, and for two or three years practically no headway could be made toward legislation. The education of public sentiment to the necessity of some protective action proceeded, and the President soon lent the influence of his own powerful office and personality to that work. The Senate finally capitulated and a bill was

passed there. The House remained the stronghold of opposition, but it has been steadily yielding, till, at last, the House Agricultural Committee has assented to a measure, very carefully drawn, and probably embodying the wisest ideas about such legislation that have yet been put upon paper. It is expected that the House will pass the legislation at this session, but whether it does or not, the legislation is now as good as assured, and President Roosevelt will go out of office seeing the fruition of his long campaign for forest preservation.

Others did much of the pioneer work in this and other conservation fields, but it remained for Mr. Roosevelt to give that work a great impetus and also to encourage a strong and aggressive public sentiment, such as alone makes legislation possible.

## Around the Police Station

Patent Leather Vag.  
Patent leather shoes did not prevent John N. Smith from being charged with vagrancy by the police, and he will be brought before Judge Andrade this morning to show cause why he should not be sent to the reef to cure him of the habit of making a regular tour of begging visits in the residence district. Smith made the mistake of making a call for alms at the home of Receiving Clerk Olds. He was held for investigation for a couple of days, the charge being entered last night.

Two Men Held.  
Two men named West and Buddhu have been charged with robbery in the second degree. They are the men alleged to have held up and beaten James Rodgers near the Kalihi Saloon a few nights ago. The charge was entered after the men were identified as the pair that followed Rodgers out of the saloon.

Disturbed the Peace.  
Martin Gunderson and Fred Owan were arrested Sunday night for disturbing the quiet and peace of the neighborhood in which they resided. Later in the evening A. Strand and Kamaka (w) were brought in and charged with the same offense. Chas. Burdick, a soldier of the transport Buford, was brought to the station for carrying a concealed weapon. The latter was only a big, long jackknife, but he is alleged to have drawn it during the fight, and that transformed the tobacco cutter into a weapon, according to law parlane. He was released, however, and sent aboard the transport in charge of a guard detail from the ship.

## GERMAN IRE WAS AROUSED

(Continued from Page One.)  
Apparently, the legal luminary had imagined that he was addressing an Anarchist Club, and he wore a look of injured innocence when several members left in dignified silence, by way of protest against the execrable taste shown in making such a speech. A few of those who remained got up and in vigorous speech repudiated the imputation of being Chinese, spoke in warm terms of the many splendid qualities of their beloved Kaiser, and generally gave particular Sheel to the misguided orator, finishing up by drinking "Hoch der Kaiser" in proper style. But the ruffled harmony of the evening could not be restored, and a cloud enveloped the subsequent proceedings. The beer barrel allured in vain; the worst and sauerkraut failed to please. Every now and again, as the recollection of the oration recurred to them, those present gave vent to exclamations that sounded like "Donner und Blitzen," or "Politzansend."

Finally, to escape possible lynching, the offending orator left the room, and the local crowd carried on the festivities till midnight.

It is safe to say that on future occasions of this kind, the club will be careful not to entrust the toast of the Kaiser's health to a free-born citizen of the United States, no matter though he be a member of the club.

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